



**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Intervention by the Acting U.S. Permanent Observer  
on the Situation in Ukraine  
Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers**

**April 16, 2014**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We continue efforts to deescalate the situation in Ukraine and find a democratic path forward, which is why Secretary Kerry will participate in the Geneva talks tomorrow, which will include Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. But if those are to be successful, Russia will have to explain why its forces continue to mass on the Ukrainian border, and it will have to come with constructive ideas on how to deescalate and resolve the armed attacks on buildings in eastern Ukraine.

The United States stands with Ukraine and the fundamental principle that the future of Ukraine must be decided by the Ukrainian people. We also stand with international law and norms and the fundamental principle that borders are not suggestions. Last Monday, we concluded the \$1 billion loan guarantee for Ukraine. This will benefit all the Ukrainian people, including minorities. Next week, Vice President Biden will visit Ukraine. We strongly support concluding the agreement between Ukraine and the IMF so the international community can bolster Ukraine's economy. And, we will support in every way we can Ukraine's elections at the end of May so that Ukraine can advance its political transition and look to a peaceful future.

We urge the Council of Europe to continue to utilize all the tools at its disposal to help resolve this crisis between two of its members which threatens the peace and stability of all of Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.